

# Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

Meeting Minutes – Topeka, KS  
April 25, 2014

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Pamela Beach, Department for Children & Families  
Matthew Connell, Provider Member  
Sharon Hixson, Public Member  
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Provider Member  
Dr. David Lindeman, Regents Representative  
Tammy Scheopner, Parent Member  
Sarah Walters, Ks Department of Health & Environ.  
Vera Stroup-Rentier, Ks Department of Education

## MEMBERS ON PHONE

Mary Duncan, Chair & Governor's Representative  
Melisa Schellhamer, Parent Member

## NON MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marcia Boswell-Carney, KDHE  
Kathy Johnson, Part C Coordinator/Topeka  
Dr. Eva Horn, University of Kansas  
Stephanie Parks, University of Kansas  
Gayle Stuber, KSDE  
Doug Bowman, Council staff  
Kim Kennedy, Dept. for Children & Families

## MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Kansas Insurance Department Repr  
Representative Position  
Senator Elaine Bowers  
Susan Threinen, Provider Member  
Darla Nelson-Metzger, Parent

**Call to Order:** Due to Mrs. Duncan's illness, Pamela Beach, Vice-Chair of the Kansas ICC, called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked for introductions.

**Meeting Minutes:** Sharon Hixson moved that the February 2014 meeting minutes be approved as written. Matt Connell seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

**Meeting Agenda:** Dave Lindeman made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Sarah Walters seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Public Forum:** None at this time.

**Meeting of the Minds:** The meeting of the minds topic was social-emotional development and a specific narrative from a former kindergarten teacher. The ICC and its guests were divided into small groups to discuss the topic and then reported back to the full Council. Among the comments made, were the following:

- "Teaching to the Test" is common, but not a desirable method.
- Using developmentally appropriate practices is critical in the early years. Play is important!
- Finding time to both teach and assess is a challenge.
- Assessments of special education children have lead to more accountability.
- Evidence-based research can identify resources, strategies, and practices to support teachers, children, and families.

**Early Childhood Personnel Center:** Stephanie Parks, of Kansas University, gave a power point presentation on this exciting initiative. They are currently in the second year of a five-year project. They have been examining several states in the Midwest Region. As a result of this analysis, Kansas will be used as a model.

**Website Update:** Pamela Beach gave an update on the status of the website. Work on the website has been ongoing by several members of the council, with the hopes of going online this summer. As a result of delays in the supports from Information Network of Kansas, the web site committee and the Executive committee are recommending a change in vendors for this project. Connell Enterprises has made an offer to do the work for a very modest annual fee. The

council appreciated this offer and the full disclosure of the financial details. After discussion, the consensus was to move forward with Connell enterprises as recommended by the web site committee.

**Committee/Work Group Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** This group met on April 17. The agenda for the Council meeting was set. The web site progress was reviewed. The departure of Sabra Shirrell from KDHE was noted, as was that Sarah Walters was now serving as the Secretary’s designee. Discussion occurred around the possibility of using a facilitator for our June 13 strategic planning session. Council members were encouraged to submit names of possible facilitators.

**Communication/Collaboration workgroup:** Kim Kennedy is now serving as Chair of this committee. They met before today’s Council meeting, and have two items to report:

#1 The committee will be drafting a guidance document for proposed steps to be taken when bringing a topic to the attention of the Council for consideration.

#2 The committee encourages that Council staff communicate more frequently (as appropriate) with the full Council, LICCs, and other local partners. Time sensitive topics could include: agency initiatives, Legislative activity, and late breaking news. The new web site is an excellent forum for such communication.

**Website workgroup:** report already given

**Agency Reports:**

**KDHE:** Sarah Walters and Marcia Boswell-Carney reported that the federal government is changing the manner in which states report. Currently, a State Performance Plan and an Annual Performance Review is submitted. Starting next year, only one State Systems Improvement Plan will be sent. The most significant change will be to focus upon only one indicator or outcome, rather than a list of outcomes. Kansas needs to select what that one outcome will be. A power point presentation was given, and a spirited discussion ensued. However, no decisions were made.

**Insurance:** No insurance representative present.

**KSDE:** Vera Stroup-Rentier noted the written report that was sent out in advance.

**Families Together:** No report was given.

**DCF:** A written report was sent earlier.

**Staff Report:** Mr. Bowman gave further details on the appointments process. In regard to Local ICCs, he visited Wichita yesterday, and will go to Marion County in early May. Visits to Douglas county and Franklin county may be necessary some time soon.

In the past, KDHE staff have compiled a spreadsheet of LICC Chairs and parents, at the request of the Council. The staff member who completed the task is no longer working at KDHE. Mr. Bowman suggested that he take the time to compile this information. The task should take several hours. No action taken at this time.

**Adjournment:** The next Council meeting will be the June 13<sup>th</sup> all-day strategic planning session in Topeka at the DCF Learning Center.

Initiate Contract with Connell Enterprises	Council Staff and Chair	June 1, 2014
Prepare for Council 6/13 meeting	Council staff, Chair, and Executive	May 23, 2014

## Department for Children and Families

ICC – REPORT – April 2014

### HSSCO Report:

#### EHS/CC Partnership Grant Funding Opportunity

The Office of the Administration for Children & Families (ACF) will be announcing a grant funding opportunity that supports states and communities in expanding high quality early learning for infants and toddlers through the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships. Through this grant opportunity Early Head Start grantees will partner with center-based and family child care providers who agree to meet the Early Head Start Program Performance Standards. The partnerships will provide comprehensive services to infants and toddlers of low-income families. Funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process. More information is available on the ACF web site.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/early-head-start-child-care-partnerships>

#### Head Start Education Manager Summit

The HSSCO is working with KHSa and Head Start TA to host a 2 day professional development event sponsored by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL). This will be a 2 day professional development event designed to support teaching staff and home visitors with implementing the School Readiness Framework. The Head Start Education Manager Summit will be taking place in Topeka on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the DCF Learning Center.

#### Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit

During a HSSCO conference call last week it was announced the NCQTL has developed a Transition to Kindergarten Toolkit. The toolkit is to provide information on effective transition strategies and provide resources to support school readiness. This toolkit will be mailed to the Head Start grantees and to the HSSCO within the coming weeks. In addition further resources will be made available on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center's web site.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>

#### HS & Part B & Part C Collaborations

The HSSCO met with our Part B 619 Coordinator, Vera Stroup-Rentier to discuss program coordination around HS transition to kindergarten. The transition discussion included topics of school readiness, family and community engagement, and use of the Early Learning Standards. We will be meeting with Sarah Walters our Part C Coordinator to discuss the 0-3 transitions as well. We will be brainstorming partnership ideas to facilitate program coordination.

#### HSSCO Needs Assessment

It is required to administer the full needs assessment this year. The HSSCO office is currently looking at expanding some of the survey questions to include topics regarding domestic violence, child care partnerships, and family engagement. The needs assessment survey results will be used to guide the development of the HSSCO 5 year strategic plan.

## Health & Environment Report

### Part C Infant-Toddler Services Report

- Sabra Shirrell recently left KDHE to take a position as an early childhood special educator working directly with families at a local tiny-k program. She has returned to her roots and is working at TARC in Topeka where she started her career in 1979. We will miss her and wish her luck in her new position. The families of Topeka are lucky to have her on their team! Sarah Walters is now the KDHE representative appointed by Secretary Moser on the SICC.
- Bureau of Family Health Reorganization. With Sabra's departure, Kansas Infant-Toddler Services has been moved under the Special Health Services Section (SHS) of the Bureau of Family Health. Heather Smith is the Director of this section. Other programs in the section include, Children and Youth with Special Health

Care Needs, Newborn Screening, Sound Beginnings, the Kansas Resource Guide, and the Birth Defects Registry. We are excited for the new opportunities for collaboration, of which there will be many.

- The Local Network Grant packet is in the hands of the local programs. It looks like there will be just one change in lead/fiscal agencies at the local level. The Seward county program is joining with the Russell Child Development Center in Garden City. This will take our number of local tiny-k programs from 37 to 36.
- Preliminary Program Determinations have been shared with the local tiny-k program coordinators. Finalized determinations will be posted at [www.ksits.org](http://www.ksits.org)
- Infant –Toddler services is working with KSDE and piloting the C to B Electronic Referral System with the Shawnee County tiny-k program and school districts. We are hopeful it will go “live” in July, 2014 with all Part C and 619 programs.
- State Systemic Improvement Plan Presentation